



## THE EARLY CHAPTERS

### Children's Literacy Program

The District of Columbia is experiencing a literacy crisis. Approximately 37% of adults are functionally illiterate. An estimated 35% of the children in our community live in poverty, which is directly linked to child illiteracy. Children who are not reading at or above grade level by third grade may not catch up with their peers.

It is imperative that we come together to help children in the District gain the literacy skills crucial to their school and life success.

Many of our community leaders have identified literacy as a priority in the District. Mayor Anthony A. Williams has challenged the people of the Washington to join him in transforming Washington into a City of Learning.

You can get make an impact by joining The Early Chapters children's literacy program. The Early Chapters, which is administered by Serve DC, is working to ensure that children in the District are reading well and early by raising awareness about the importance of early childhood literacy and by increasing support of early childhood literacy programs. Goals include:

1. Increasing resources and advocacy for children's literacy;
2. Building better and broader systems to support volunteerism and community action focused on early childhood literacy; and
3. Growing the number of community members who volunteer their time with children's literacy programs.

To find out about how you can get involved or for more information contact The Early Chapters at 202-727-7925 or e-mail [earlychapters@dc.gov](mailto:earlychapters@dc.gov).

***Everyone can do something to help our children. What will you do?***